

**Lieutenant Governor  
Katherine L. Davis, Director**  
INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
ONE NORTH CAPITOL, SUITE 700  
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46204  
TEL 317 232 8800  
Fax 317 232 5123  
www.indianacommerce.com

For Immediate Release: Aug. 6, 2004

Media Contact: Angie Dye, Indiana Department of Commerce, 317.232.2464  
Dan Yamanaka, Commerce Region 3 Office, 260.426.8802

## ***Davis Announces \$160,550 in Training Grants for Seven Northeast Indiana Businesses***

INDIANAPOLIS - Lt. Gov. Kathy Davis today announced that seven Northeast Indiana companies have been awarded training grants from the Indiana Department of Commerce Skills Enhancement Fund (SEF).

The Department of Commerce will provide \$160,550 in grants to train 300 Hoosier employees, generating more than \$18.7 million in capital investments.

"Businesses must have skilled workers to outperform their competitors. These grants will help businesses provide important training to their workers and, at the same time, allow workers to learn new skills that will be with them the rest of their working lives," said Davis, who leads the state's economic development efforts as director of Commerce. "Investments like these that benefit both the business community and our workforce are also investments in the state's long-term economic health."

- **Courier Kendallville**, Kendallville, will receive a \$97,000 grant to train 10 new and 102 existing employees as part of the company's \$14.5 million investment in building improvements and new equipment. Founded in 1953, Courier Kendallville prints and binds books for major publishers in the educational, medical, trade and religious market. The company will offer training in problem solving, process training, computer training and troubleshooting.
- **D.A.S. Services Inc.**, Angola, will receive a \$3,200 grant to train four new and one existing employee in conjunction with the company's \$200,000 investment in equipment. D.A.S. Services was founded in 1992 and specializes in the repair and manufacturing of hydraulic and pneumatic cylinders. They will use the grant to provide training in machining and computer skills.

-more-

- **Fort Wayne Plastics Inc.**, Fort Wayne, will receive a \$9,500 grant to train 16 new and 15 existing employees following the company's \$512,600 investment in facility improvements and equipment upgrades. Formed in 1997 as a spin-off from Fort Wayne Pools, Fort Wayne Plastics manufactures plastic foam products using gas assisted plastic injection molding machines. The company will use the grant to train employees in lean manufacturing, team building, cross training and forklift operations.
- **Mahoney Foundries Inc.**, Kendallville, will receive a \$10,900 grant to train four new and 37 incumbent workers in conjunction with the company's \$195,000 investment in building and equipment upgrades. Purchased and incorporated in 1973 as an aluminum foundry, the company now produces aluminum and brass castings. Training will be provided in machine molding, computer skills, electrical skills and quality control.
- **Precision Die Technologies Inc.**, Fort Wayne, is the recipient of an \$8,550 grant to train five new and 24 existing employees as part of the company's \$103,000 investment in equipment upgrades. The company, established by four partners in 1989, is a producer of wire drawing dies. They will provide employee training in math, computer skills, lean manufacturing, team building, quality control and other job specific applications.
- **Tools, Dies & Molds Co. (TD&M)**, New Haven, will receive a \$10,900 grant to train three new and 17 existing employees as part of the company's \$200,000 investment in equipment upgrades. In business since 1958, TD&M Co. provides machining services to the automotive, heavy and medium duty truck, stove, rubber-molded and agricultural industries. The company will provide training in forklift, quality control, equipment operation and process training.
- **Tower Automotive**, Auburn, will receive a \$20,500 grant to train 23 new and 39 existing employees as part of the company's \$3 million investment in new equipment. Formed in 1985 as R.J. Tower Corp., the company was purchased and changed its name in 1993. They are a metal stamping producer whose product includes critical and complex components and assemblies focused on the structural area of the vehicles they serve. Training will be provided in crane operation, forklift, welding, on-the-job training and quality control.

The Commerce Department awards SEF grants to Indiana companies that undertake capital investment projects. The grants help defray the costs of training new and current employees in basic work skills and company-specific skills necessary to support the project.

Northeast Indiana/add 1

In 2003, Commerce awarded 242 training grants statewide. These grants totaled more than \$17 million and were utilized to train or retrain more than 52,000 Indiana workers. The grants also helped leverage over \$2.9 billion, more than tripling the investment dollars from the previous year.

In January 2004, Governor Kernan announced plans to maximize the utilization of SEF funds through the Indiana@Work initiative. A collaborative project between the Department of Commerce and the Department of Workforce Development, Indiana@Work is a proactive approach to match Hoosier workers with jobs available. Companies interested in learning more about the Skills Enhancement Fund, Indiana@Work or other Commerce programs should contact their regional Commerce office at 800.463.8081, or visit the Web site at [www.indianacommerce.com](http://www.indianacommerce.com).

###